



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2007

CONTACT:

Eric Lamoureux
(916) 845-8400
Greg Renick
(562) 795-2941

New Portal on OES Web Site Offers Access to Information About Mitigation of Disaster Damage

www.hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – For nearly a century, California has been a national and international leader in the effort to reduce deaths, injuries and property losses in earthquakes, fires, floods and other emergencies by enacting stricter standards for the building of schools and dams, retrofitting bridges and overpasses, widening channels and culverts, creating fuel fire breaks and elevating houses.

Access to vital information that can help public officials, emergency planners and individuals succeed in future mitigation efforts is now available via a new portal on the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Web page.

"As Californians, we live with a variety of natural, technological and human-caused hazards that can pose a serious threat to our lives, property and the environment with little or no warning," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "Although we can't prevent every type of hazard we face from occurring, history has shown that we can reduce the impacts."

The new Web portal, which was developed with strategic and technical assistance from a team of developers at the California Resources Agency, features links to a wide range of loss-reduction strategies, maps showing where major hazards are located, examples of mitigation success stories and other resources developed by state and federal agencies. Users can access the portal through the Hazard Mitigation link on the OES Web page at www.oes.ca.gov or at www.hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov.

"This new Web portal will provide Californians with valuable information that will empower them to do their part in helping save lives and protect both their personal property and the environment," said Renteria.

General and emergency planners from cities, counties and special districts can use the Web portal to access the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, hazard mitigation plans developed by select California cities, counties and special districts, as well as hazard maps and geographic information system (GIS) data. They also can use the portal to obtain information about grants, mitigation-related regulations such as the California Seismic Hazard Mapping Act and the California Building Code, as well as examples of mitigation "success stories" implemented by cities, counties and special districts throughout the state.

Through the portal, individuals can learn about California's disaster history, laws pertaining to disasters, and download publications and videos on how to strengthen wood-frame houses.

###